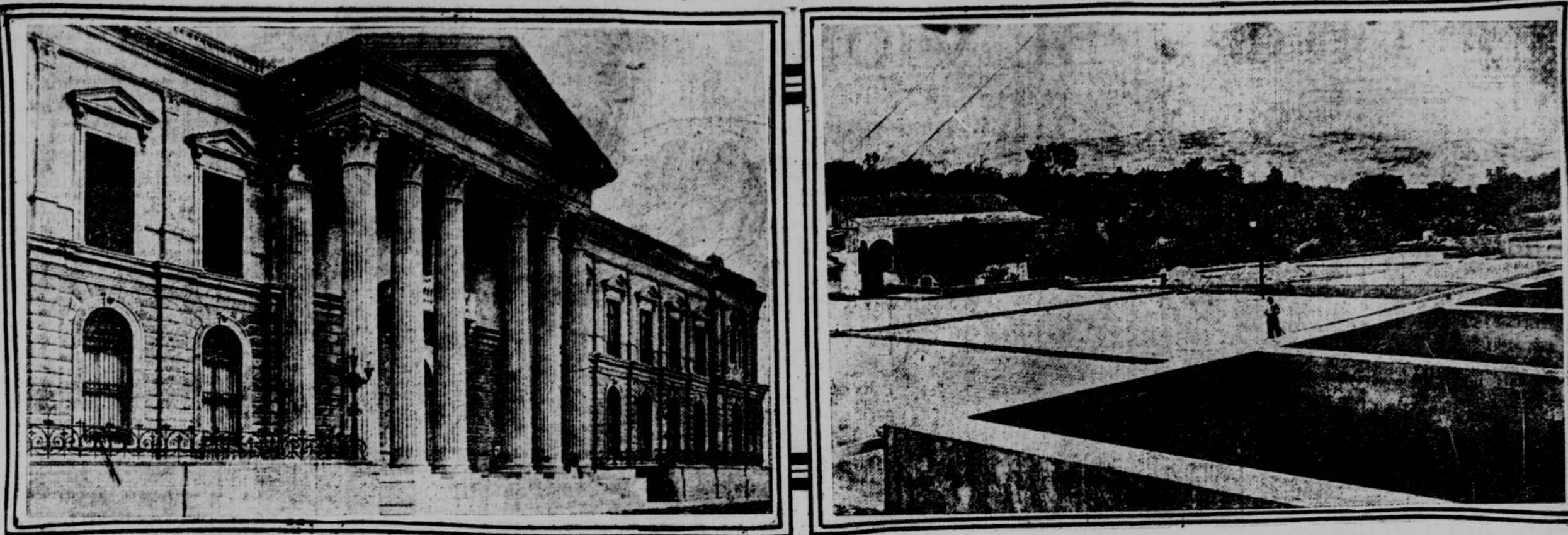


Salvador, Smallest American Republic, Land of Coffee and Indigo



THE CAPITOL, SAN SALVADOR.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Equinilla, Guatemala. It is the largest town between the capital and the sea-coast. It lies on the Guatemala Central Railroad some distance north of the Santa Maria, the junction there of the Pan-American road with the Central on its way to Panama. The Pan-American line is now practically completed from Santa Maria to Mexico, and the plan is to extend the line southward to Santa Anna, in Salvador. The distance between these two towns is less than 100 miles, and we then shall have railroad connection between Salvador and the United States. An American syndicate will probably build this road, and the same syndicate has plans for a line from Zacapa, on the Guatemala railway, on the other side of the mountains, to connect with the Salvador system. When these roads are finished Salvador will be able to ship goods to Port Burias on the Caribbean Sea, and it will be in less than three days of New Orleans. I understand the concessions for these branches are well under way, and that their completion is a matter of a very short time.

These two roads will form a part of a great central American railway system, the chief owners of which are Minor C. Keith and his associates, many of whom are connected with the United Fruit Company. Mr. Keith controls the roads of Costa Rica and also those of Guatemala. He has large interests in Honduras, and also a grasp upon the railways of Nicaragua. The road from Santa Maria to Santa Anna was originally granted to Hene Reihner, but it is now in the hands of Minor C. Keith and Bradley M. Palmer. The line from Santa Anna to Zacapa is also said to be backed by Mr. Keith. It will be seventy-nine miles long, and its gauge will be standard.

Salvador Railways. As it is now, Salvador has just about 12 miles of railways, and these belong to a British company. Its lines were built with British capital, although they have a number of American engines and cars. Some of the locomotives are Baldwin, and a number of the cars were manufactured in Philadelphia. At present the company is building its own coaches.

These roads connect the port of Acapulco with the thriving town of Santa Anna, and also with the capital at San Salvador. The company owns an iron pier at Acapulco, which cost over a million dollars to build, and it has a line of steamers which ply along the coast running to Honduras, Nicaragua, and as far north as Salina Cruz in Mexico. These steamers carry the Salvador mails north to Tehuantepec, cutting down the postal time between Salvador and Europe to only a little over two weeks, whereas it used to be one month. They enable one to go to Salvador from here every few days. With the completion of the Panama Canal, the traffic of



THE PRESIDENT OF SALVADOR.

Acapulco will be greatly increased, and the road will be a very valuable property. The prospect is that it will eventually go into the hands of the American syndicate.

The Smallest of American Republics.

These railways will bring Salvador into close connection with the United States. It is one of the most interesting countries on this continent. Great parts of Guatemala are savage, and will be settled in less than a year. It is more thickly populated than most parts of our union. It has an area less than that of Massachusetts and its inhabitants number two

millions. If the United States were as thickly populated it would have more than four times as many people as now, and if our soil throughout were as rich, we would have wealth beyond the dreams of avarice. Salvador has rich ranges of mountains which are rich in iron, copper and lead and in gold and silver as well. As it is now, its mineral exports are between two and three million dollars a year, and the total exports, including coffee, tobacco and sugar, are more than \$1,000,000.

The bulk of the exports go to the United States, France and Germany.

while the most of the imports come from the British and the Germans, who have less than a half million dollars of the exports and about the same of the imports, have large financial interests, and they are doing what they can to capture the trade.

American Trade in Salvador.

Indeed, it behooves the Americans to be up and doing as to Central America. I find the Germans everywhere, and the British have long held the various countries. As it is now, Great Britain is supplying twice as much cotton to Salvador as we do, and it is growing us close in hardware and in certain kinds of machinery. We have the bulk of the leather imports, and most of the flour, and we are shipping several hundred thousand dollars' worth of drugs and medicines—a business in which Germany tries in vain to compete.

As to our imports, we are buying about a million dollars' worth of Salvador coffee, six or seven hundred thousand dollars' worth of gold and a few thousand dollars' worth of rubber and skins. The total exports to the United States in 1910 were just a little over two millions—a bagatelle in comparison with the population and wealth of the country.

Salvador Farms and Farming.

Salvador is different from the other Central American States in that it is divided up into small farms. There are many landholders, and nearly every family owns its own home farm. The soil is fertile and the rainfall abundant. There are thousands of little coffee plantations, many indigo farms, and here and there a field of green sugar cane.

The government is doing all it can to encourage farming, and it has established a school of agriculture, which has an experimental farm situated on the side of the mountains, about thirteen hundred feet above the sea. This farm is between Sonsonate, the second city of the republic, and Izalco, which is not far from Acapulco, upon a little tableland, on the highest part of which are the school buildings and laborer's huts. Experiments are being made here in coffee and sugar planting, and also in cattle breeding and dairying. The school sends out bulletins of information somewhat as our Agricultural Department does, although on an infinitely smaller scale.

Coffee and Indigo.

Coffee and indigo are the two chief crops of Salvador. The coffee product amounts to something like 9,000,000 pounds, and it brings the highest prices. The trees grow in all parts of the republic between 1,500 and 4,000 feet above sea level. The plants are grown in seed beds and are set out when they have been well sprouted. They begin to produce at about three years of age, and it costs from 2 to 3 cents a pound to raise the coffee, and it sells at retail from 10 cents to 25 cents a pound, over half the cost being consumed at export. A farmer told me that which is sent abroad brings very high prices, and the Central American think Salvador's coffee is better than that of Brazil and superior to the coffee of Jamaica or Java.

Indigo grows almost everywhere, and it is the chief export of the country. It is produced from a plant which flourishes upon nearly all soils. The ground is first turned over and then scratched with the plow. The seed is scattered broadcast, and the plants soon grow. They are then cut and the indigo is extracted by soaking them in water in vats. It takes about four or five pounds of the green plants to produce four, five or six ounces of indigo. The business is not so profitable as it was in the past, but it is still a valuable industry. The output of indigo in 1910 was about \$300,000. The output of indigo is much less, the indigo dye having been largely driven out of use by the cheap aniline dyes.

Perfumery From Salvador.

Another queer Salvador export is the balsam of Peru, whose name reminds me of that which Senator Palmer chose for his log cabin outside the Hill. He called the place Fort Hill, and when asked why he replied that it was because it had no fountain. The hill is the case with the balsam of Peru. It does not come from Peru, but from Salvador, and this is about the only place where it grows. This balsam is largely used in perfumery and medicines.

It is sometimes called cocoa balsam because it was once shipped in cocoa nuts. It really comes from a great tree of the tropical forests which, when full grown, is over 100 feet high. The tree has a white bark, and the wood is hard and durable. It has white blossoms, and its fruit is much like a bean pod, with a single seed. These trees grow in the forests, and the balsam is collected almost entirely by Indians who scrape the trees in the winter by scraping of the bark in patches to the depth of one-tenth of an inch. The scraped places are heated with burning torches and then covered with scraps of old cotton cloth. The cloth sticks to the tree, and in a day or two the sap has seeped into it. The rags are now taken up and boiled in big iron pots. They are then put under pressure, and the balsam juice squeezed out. It must now be refined and put up in cans for the market. The balsam is a grayish-red mass, which smells like vanilla. It is said to be especially good for skin diseases and as an antiseptic. It sells for \$20 a pound.

The Cities of Salvador.

Secretary Knox took a run through Salvador during his stay in Central America, and he has proclaimed it one of the prettiest of our sister republics. The lowlands and sides of the mountains are covered with farms. The villages are quaint and the cities have many beautiful buildings. The biggest town is Santa Anna, with about 24,000; then comes San Salvador, with 22,000, and then San Miguel, with 10,000. Sonsonate, where the railroad shops are, has 12,000, and the port of La Libertad is almost as large. The total city population, including towns ranging from 2,500 upward, is about 100,000.

A Look at the Capital.

The capital, San Salvador, is one of the beautifully isolated towns of Central America. It lies in the foothills of the mountains, right under a magnificent volcano and about 2,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean. In some respects it compares with Mexico City. Near it is Lake Chapetlan, a beautiful green sheet of water with a shore line of perhaps thirty miles. All the country about is volcanic, and this lake formerly had is-

The Salvador coffee is better than that of Brazil. On these concrete platforms they are drying the beans.



The balsam tree grows only in Salvador.

lands which some years ago dropped out of sight at the time of an earthquake, while another island 200 feet in diameter rose out of the lake to a height of 150 feet. At the same time the water came intensely hot, although it is ordinarily cold, and the roofs of the village and hotels about Hopango, and it is the favorite resort of San Salvador.

The capital of the republic is well built. Its streets are wide and well paved, and its public offices compare with those of the great cities of Europe. The new cathedral is magnificent and the White House, or Casa Blanca, the university, the hospital, and the National Institute are worthy of mention. There are the fine homes, consisting of one or two stories surrounding open patios. Most of these homes are beautiful gardens, and not a few have fountains. The houses are painted in bright colors, and the roofs are of tile. The sidewalks are paved with slabs of rocks from the quarries nearby, and there are tramways which give a ten-minute service. A new theatre is now building which is subsidized by the city. It will cost about a million francs, and will seat 1,200.

President Araujo.

San Salvador has numerous parks, in which the people walk about in the evening, when the bands play. It is a great club centre and is the social hub of the republic. It is here where the present executive is Don Manuel Enrique Araujo, who was Vice-President under the last administration, and who, I am told, is very popular. He is elected by both parties, and great things are expected of him. He is one of the young men of the country and has long been noted for his fairness on all public questions, and as a physician, he is also a well known as a surgeon. He is also an inventor, having designed some very delicate instruments, which are now in common use in the big hospitals of Europe.

The Congress of Salvador.

The government of Salvador, as is the case with all the Central American States, is modeled after that of our country. The republican government is divided into three branches—legislative, executive and judicial. The legislative branch is the Congress, which is known as the National Chamber of Deputies. This consists of forty-two members, who are elected by popular vote for a term of one year. All males have the right to vote after they reach the age of eighteen, and there is no muzzling or shirking the polls in Salvador.

The executive branch consists of a President and Vice-President, who are elected by popular vote. The President is not eligible for re-election until four years after the close of his term, and he cannot succeed himself as Vice-President. He has his Cabinet, consisting of four secretaries, each with a large number of clerks. The army of Salvador is small, but quite large enough for the country. It numbers about 5,000 men as a regular force, 11,000 as a first reserve and 1,000 as a second reserve. In case of war, military service is compulsory, and the country can put into the field on short notice something like 30,000 men.

Up-to-Date Sanitation.

Salvador is now becoming live to the new sanitation. Some of the finest buildings among which is that of Rosales, which has an endowment of more than \$100,000. This building is situated at San Salvador. It was bequeathed to the nation by Don Jose Rosales and was sustained by him during his lifetime. There are other hospitals at the capital

The National Institute of Vaccination took up the matter and supplied enough serum to vaccinate all the people. The work was much the same as that which we did in Porto Rico at the close of the war with Spain, when we vaccinated 80,000 within a month or so. The Salvador work was so effective that within a few months smallpox was wiped out the republic.

This vaccination work was done largely by traveling doctors in connection with the Rosales Hospital, which has a factory in which a thousand tubes of vaccine are monthly prepared. In addition to this a great deal is imported from France and Switzerland.

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WEST POINT

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) West Point, Va., January 18.—The entertainment given by local talent for the volunteer firemen of West Point, was a great success in every way. The fund, added to that already in hand, will soon make it possible for West Point to take her place with the foremost cities of the country in point of fire-fighting equipment.

The School Improvement League at the annual election of officers chose the following: President, Mrs. W. S. Eastwood; Vice-presidents, Mrs. M. D. Chandler and Miss Kate Gary; recording secretary, Mrs. George W. Richardson; treasurer, Mrs. J. E. Bland. Mrs. J. A. Leath has gone on a visit to friends in Burkeville.

Mrs. Herbert L. Lewis has just returned to her home here from a visit to relatives in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Burnett Lewis, who has been visiting Mrs. Herbert L. Lewis, has returned to her home in Hamlet, N. C.

Miss Effie Carden has returned from an extended visit to relatives in Washington, D. C. The Thimble Club was entertained by Miss Sadie Gary on Tuesday.

Mrs. William McAllister, of Durham, N. C., is the guest of Mrs. O. F. McAllister.

Mrs. L. H. Jenkins and daughter, Miss Dorothy, of Richmond, have recently visited Miss Clara Kideaway, the sister of Mrs. Jenkins, and Mrs. French Taylor, of Baltimore, spent a part of their honeymoon with Mr. Taylor's parents in West Point.

A W. A. Willerby entertained a week-end party at Chelsea last week.

Miss Mae Owens spent a day or two in Richmond with Mrs. Julian Baby, the first of this week.

Miss Mary Gatewood, who has spent the winter with her sister, Mrs. Emerson Smith, at Woodstock, in Middlesex County, is now the guest of Mrs. Samuel Tunstall Bland here.

CREWE

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Crewe, Va., January 18.—Miss S. M. V. of Ohio, late of Farmville, spent the past week here, working in the interest of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The union was reorganized with the following officers: Mrs. J. H. Hines, president; Mrs. W. T. Firoshetti, treasurer; Mrs. John Kidd, secretary.

Mrs. M. Cooper has returned home from Pulaski.

Miss Verona Bennett left the past week for Mercer, Cal.

Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Bray have returned after a stay of some length in the mountains.

Mrs. George Richardson recently visited her son, Rick Richardson, who is at Richmond College.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy are preparing for the presentation of crosses of honor on January 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Farley have returned from a visit to Appomattox.

Miss Ida Blankenship, of Roanoke, is visiting Miss Alice Wilson.

Mrs. Darrell Saunders has returned from Richmond.

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